

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0811
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: NA
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SUBJECT: PEACE PROCESS

SUMMARY. PRESS HIGHLIGHTS "ASTONISHMENT" THAT ISRAEL
REJECTED EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS GOI HAS NOT YET SEEN. THIS
CONFIRMS BEGIN GOVERNMENT "MAIN OBSTACLE" TO PEACE.
FORMIN KAMEL SAYS GOE STILL PREPARING PROPOSAL TO SUBMIT
TO U.S. ISRAEL CRITICIZED FOR INTRANSIGENCE. PRESS
ALSO HIGHLIGHTS PRESIDENT CARTER "REGRET" THAT PROPOSAL
REJECTED AND THAT U.S. "VERY DISAPPOINTED" WITH ISRAELI
ANSWERS TO U.S. QUESTIONS. PREDICTABLY, U.S. CALLED UPON
TO PLAY HIGHLY ACTIVE ROLE IN COMING STAGE. END SUMMARY.

1. ISRAELI REJECTION. PRESS JUNE 26 HIGHLIGHTS FORMIN
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KAMEL'S "ASTONISHMENT" THAT ISRAEL TURNED DOWN EGYPTIAN
PROPOSALS ON WEST BANK AND GAZA WHICH EGYPT HAS NEITHER
COMPLETED NOR PRESENTED TO ISRAEL THROUGH U.S. GOE
CONTINUING TO WORK ON PROPOSALS. PLAN BASED ON ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF OVERALL PEACE WHICH IN
LINE WITH GOE'S PRINCIPLES THAT THERE MUST BE COMPLETE
WITHDRAWAL AND SHOULD BE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE AND

GOOD-NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS.

2. CRITICISM OF ISRAEL. PRESS REPORTS PRESIDENT CARTER EXPRESSED "REGRET" THAT ISRAEL REJECTED EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS BEFORE THEY WERE MADE AND THAT HE INTENDS RELAY PROPOSALS TO ISRAEL WHEN U.S. RECEIVES THEM. ALSO HIGHLIGHTED WAS CARTER'S REMARK THAT ISRAELI REPLIES TO AMERICAN QUESTIONS "VERY DISAPPOINTING". PRESS REPORTED "RESPONSIBLE SOURCES" IN MFA SAYING THAT ISRAELI REJECTION OF EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL SHOWS "NERVOUSNESS" AND LEADS ONE TO QUESTION ISRAEL'S TRUE INTENTIONS. SOURCES NOTED IRONY THAT IT TOOK TWO MONTHS FOR ISRAEL TO REPLY AMBIGUOUSLY TO AMERICAN QUESTIONS YET IT PROMPTLY REJECTED UNOFFERED EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL. SUCH ACTION ONLY CONFIRMS WHAT GOE HAS ALWAYS SAID: BEGIN GOVERNMENT "MAIN OBSTACLE" TO PEACE. AKHBAR EDITORIAL CRITICIZES REJECTION OF EGYPTIAN PLAN PRESENTED TO "OVERCOME ISRAEL'S DELAYING TACTICS", AND NOTES ISRAEL'S OWN "RIGID CONDITIONS", I.E. THE SELF-RULE PLAN FOR WEST BANK AND GAZA.

3. NEXT STEPS. AKHBAR EDITORIAL CALLS FOR "FURTHER INTERNATIONAL MOVES" AGAINST ISRAELI "INTRANSIGENCE", ESPECIALLY FROM AMERICA. ONLY AMERICA CAN CHANGE "LOGIC OF ISRAELI PEACE" BASED ON FORCE AND OCCUPATION TO STANCE MORE IN KEEPING WITH EGYPTIAN INITIATIVE. PRESS REPORTS MAREI'S SAYING IN NEW YORK THAT WHAT NEEDED IS "VERY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTIVE AMERICAN ROLE". PRESS CONTINUES REPORT POSSIBILITY OF FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING, INCLUDING PRESIDENT CARTER'S REMARK THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING MIGHT BE SUITABLE AND MAY HAVE ON AGENDA NEW PROPOSALS. BUT NEITHER BRITISH SPOKESMAN'S NOR FORMIN KAMEL'S REMARKS CONFIRMED MEETING OR ITS DATE.

4. COMMENT. PREDICTABLY, PRESS AND OFFICIALS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ISRAEL'S PRECIPITOUS REJECTION OF EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS IN ATTEMPT PUT ISRAEL ON DEFENSIVE, UNDERLINE ITS "INTRANSIGENCE", AND ONCE AGAIN REMIND U.S. THAT WE MUST REINVIGORATE PEACE PROCESS. EILTS

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